



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### THREE U. S. GAME-LAW AGENTS RETIRE FROM ACTIVE SERVICE

Three United States game management agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service will be retired from active duty today (September 30) in accordance with a new provision setting the retirement age of Federal game-law enforcement officers at 62 instead of 70 years, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced. The retiring officers are Harry Barmeier, 69-year-old agent stationed at St. Louis, Missouri; Phillip S. Farnham, 68, stationed at Owego, New York; and John Q. Holmes, 62, stationed at Garden City, Missouri.

The retirement age of game-law agents has been moved up, Secretary Ickes explained, because of the hazardous and strenuous nature of the work. In the course of their duties, agents must pit their wit and ability against fur smugglers, wildfowl bootleggers, and other types of game-law violators.

On many assignments, U. S. game agents must remain continuously on duty for many days. Their work often requires strenuous activities in the out-of-doors under difficult conditions.

"We are reluctant to let these agents retire," W. E. Crouch, Chief of the Division of Game Management, said. "All three have had a long and useful career as wildlife conservationists. They have been excellent officers. After years of

subjecting themselves to all types of danger in the course of their work, however, these men have a right to retire to a well-earned rest."

Agent Barmeier joined the former Bureau of Biological Survey (now consolidated with the Bureau of Fisheries as the Fish and Wildlife Service) on August 16, 1914. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 30, 1871. He attended public school in that city and in 1887 went to Champaign, Illinois, to study mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois. Two years later he left the University to begin a long career as a conservationist.

Agent Farnham was born in Nichols, New York, on May 22, 1872. He attended the Nichols Union School and after graduation studied pharmacy. He received his pharmacist's license from New York State and practiced pharmacy for a few years before joining the former Bureau of Biological Survey as a game agent on August 16, 1914. Farnham was the author of several articles on game protection. He was well-known among game agents for his ability as an undercover operator. Several years ago, he rounded up a gang of fur smugglers who were running silver foxes into this country from Canada.

Agent Holmes, who was born in Smith County, Kansas, on April 28, 1878, began his law-enforcement career in Orleans, Nebraska, on April 1, 1919. He later was transferred to Garden City, Nebraska, from which point he solved many important game-law violations.